

CLAIMS

The following is claimed:

1. A symbol-bearing receptacle for a fluid, said receptacle comprising:
a container for said fluid; and
5 a symbol disposed on said container, said symbol having a water reactivity that differs from the water reactivity of said container.
2. The symbol-bearing receptacle of claim 1, wherein said symbol is hydrophilic and said container is hydrophobic.
- 10 3. The symbol-bearing receptacle of claim 1, wherein said symbol is hydrophobic and said container is hydrophilic.
4. The symbol-bearing receptacle of claim 1, wherein said symbol is transparent.
- 15 5. The symbol-bearing receptacle of claim 1, wherein said symbol comprises a plastic film.
6. The symbol-bearing receptacle of claim 1, wherein said symbol comprises a silicone film.
7. The symbol-bearing receptacle of claim 1, wherein said symbol comprises a thermosensitive film.
- 20 8. The symbol-bearing receptacle of claim 1, wherein said symbol is embedded in the surface of said container.
9. A symbol-bearing receptacle for a fluid, said receptacle comprising:
a container for said fluid;
a symbol affixed to said container; and
25 means for creating a contrast in appearance between said container and said symbol when the temperature of said container is reduced to the condensation point.
10. A method for creating a contrast in appearance between a fluid receptacle and a symbol, said method comprising the steps of:
30 selecting a fluid receptacle having a first water reactivity;

affixing to said receptacle a symbol having a second water reactivity
that differs from said first water reactivity;
reducing the temperature of said receptacle to the condensation point;
and
5 observing said symbol on said receptacle.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said temperature of said receptacle is
reduced by:

cooling a fluid; and
introducing said fluid into said receptacle.

10 12. The method of claim 10, wherein said temperature of said receptacle is
reduced by:

introducing said fluid into said receptacle; and
cooling said fluid in said receptacle.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein said symbol is hydrophilic and said
15 receptacle is hydrophobic.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein said symbol is hydrophobic and said
receptacle is hydrophilic.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein said symbol is transparent.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein said symbol comprises a plastic film.

20 17. A system for generating a symbol on a substrate, said system
comprising:

a base disposed on said substrate;
a wall affixed to and extending upwardly from said base to form with
said base an open fluid receptacle; and
25 a symbol disposed on said base, said symbol facing said substrate and
comprising a material that is dissimilar to the material
surrounding said symbol, wherein a pattern of said symbol
develops on a surface rested upon by said base due to water
condensation.

30 18. The symbol-bearing receptacle of claim 17, wherein said symbol is
hydrophilic and said material surrounding said symbol is hydrophobic.

19. The symbol-bearing receptacle of claim 17, wherein said symbol is hydrophobic and said material surrounding said symbol is hydrophilic.

20. The system of claim 17 wherein said base is elevated from said substrate by a plurality of base extensions and wherein some of said base extensions
5 form said symbol.